

THE LACLEDE BLADE

A. J. OAYWOOD, Editor and Publisher.

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SATURDAY, DEC. 25, 1909

MORE MESSAGES TO CONGRESS

President Taft Planning Important Changes in Porto Rico and the Philippines

The president has definitely decided that it will be impossible for him to complete any of the special messages which he purposes sending to congress before the holiday recess. He has, moreover, determined to submit a special message on the needs of Porto Rico and the Philippines and is seriously considering writing another on the affairs of the District of Columbia. In his message on the insular possessions he will urge that citizenship be conferred on the residents of Porto Rico and the establishment central health bureau for the island and he will ask authority to create a civil pension list for the Philippines to be met out of the revenues of the islands. If he finally decides to discuss District of Columbia affairs in a special message, he will doubtless urge the institution of legal proceedings with a view to testing the constitutionality of the act of Congress by which that part of the district on the south side of the Potomac was ceded to Virginia. Mr. Taft holds the view that the law was unconstitutional and that the territory which now forms Alexandria county, Virginia, is legally still a part of the district.

The Smithsonian Institute has placed on exhibition the trophies obtained by the Roosevelt expedition in South Africa. This collection is declared by the regents and by scientists connected with the institution to be the finest it has ever received. It includes 243 specimens of large mammals, 1,500 of small mammals, 1,356 birds and something over 2,500 sheets of plants. There are, moreover, a number of human skulls picked up along the line of an old slave train which constitute a valuable contribution to the anthropological division. The receipt of this collection is most gratifying to the attaches of the institution, especially as it has entailed no expense, the funds being raised by private contribution.

Two old oil paintings have been inspiring patriotism from the walls of the senate corridor for years. One of Thomas Jefferson, with austere brow, has furnished an excellent example to present day statesmen. The other is of Patrick Henry, the Virginia orator, who has numerous imitators, as the congressional record will testify. For years these paintings have hung undisturbed with a small gold inscription under each giving the name of the original. A day or two ago Eugene W. Chafin, former prohibition candidate for president, was admitted to practice before the supreme court and while walking through the capitol he stopped before the picture marked with the name of Jefferson. "That is not Thomas Jefferson," Mr. Chafin remarked to a friend, "or, if it is, the years have made decided changes in him." He then turned to the picture marked "Patrick Henry." "And that certainly is not Patrick Henry," declared Mr. Chafin with vehemence. He was puzzled. In a moment he discovered that Henry's name was under Jefferson's portrait and vice versa. He immediately notified the superintendent of the capitol and the mistake was rectified. They are still wondering at the capitol what errors another prohibitionist might discover.

Senator Hale, who is earnestly opposed to authorizing two new battleships and a collier or a repair ship at this session of congress, has called attention to one of the most serious needs of the navy—a material increase in the personnel. Captain Usher, acting chief of the bureau of navigation, sent to the naval committee of congress only a few days ago an earnest recommendation that provision be made for 2,000 additional enlisted men, and Mr. Hale believes that this increase is far more important than an increase in ships. Some conception of the existing situation may be gained from the fact that among the three cruisers, the St. Louis, the Milwaukee and the Charlestown, all on the Pacific, there is only one full crew and two reserve crews. These vessels require a crew of 550 men each, but when one of them goes into commission it is necessary to take out the other two, leaving on each ship a reserve crew of 180 men.

A Piece of Peanut Politics

The only thing the democratic newspapers have been able to prove so far against the administration of Governor Hadley in support of the charge of extravagance is that he complied with an act of the last legislature making an appropriation for the "salary and maintenance" of the employees who have care and charge of the executive mansion and grounds.

Senator Stone, in his so-called keynote speech, tried to leave the impression, without saying it, that Governor Hadley was unauthorizedly charging the state for the "keep" of the state employees who have care and charge of the executive mansion and grounds. These employees have always been paid by the state and the last legislature made an appropriation for their "salary and maintenance." Otherwise, of course, such a charge would not have been allowed by the auditor or paid by the treasurer.

This effort to create a false impression is a characteristic piece of peanut politics. The most charitable explanation that can be offered in excuse for a United States senator resorting to such methods is that he was imposed upon. Had he taken the trouble to read sections 2 and 15 of the contingent appropriation bill he would have easily learned that his statement was false.

Eastern Star Resolutions

Whereas, God, in his all-wise providence, and who doeth all things well, has seen fit to remove from our midst our beloved sister, Eva Hetrick; therefore be it

Resolved, That we extend to her bereaved family our love and sympathy, drape our charter and badges in mourning for thirty days. In our hearts is the ever present thought: "One less in the circle, one less in the home; but her memory will live always."

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be handed her family and a copy spread upon our chapter record.

ELLA STANDLY,
LAURA LOVE,
SUSIE BENSON,
Committee.

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Pay your taxes this month if you would escape the one per cent penalty that becomes effective January 1. Don't wait until the last of the month or you may get crowded out. Be sure to bring your road receipt as no credit can be given without it.

W. S. SAVAGE,
Township Collector.

Notice to the Public

Our stores will be closed on Christmas day from 11 a. m. until 3 p. m. No delivery made in the afternoon.

J. N. WILSON
WM. KRAFT
J. B. PATRICK

KANSAS CITY REPUDIATES REED

Democratic Leaders Rebuked by an Overwhelming Majority of Honest Votes.

On Thursday of last week the people of Kansas City defeated by over 7,000 majority, a proposed franchise for the Metropolitan Street Railway Company for 42 years. While, under ordinary circumstances, this result would seem to be of merely local importance, yet it is in fact of the greatest importance, not only in state politics, but also as furnishing an explanation for the result of the election in Kansas City in 1908.

In that election, as is generally recalled, the democratic state candidates carried Kansas City by about 6,000 majority, and even Cowherd, who ran about 1,200 votes behind his ticket, carried it by 4,500. And it was to this remarkable vote that all the democratic state officers owe their election.

The surprising gain of this majority is further evidenced by the fact that in Kansas City the democrats increased their vote in 1908 over 1904 by 10,000, while the increase in the republican vote was only 3,000. These figures were entirely out of proportion with the conditions in all other parts of the state—and in fact in adjoining states. And yet, last July, when the Crittenden administration submitted an amendment to the city charter taking away the control of the saloons from the police board, appointed by Governor Hadley, and placing it with the board to be appointed by the mayor, that proposition was defeated by over 6,000 majority, notwithstanding the fact that it was made practically a strict party issue. Jim Reed, the mouthpiece of the Crittenden administration, was given the doubtful credit of having planned this amendment to the charter, and he was particularly abusive of the republican police commissioners in his speeches in its support.

The proposition to extend the Metropolitan Street Railway franchise 42 years was also proposed by the Crittenden administration and actively favored by the Crittenden-Reed-Cowherd machine. Reed and Cowherd were the leading orators who advocated this most unusual grant to a public service corporation. In response to the directions of Governor Hadley the republican city organization actively opposed the granting of this franchise, and the question was again made a party issue, and, with the assistance of a number of the leading representative democrats of the city, the Reed-Crittenden administration was again defeated, and this time by over 7,000 majority.

There is thus presented the striking paradox that in November, 1908, the Crittenden-Reed-Cowherd machine, with democratic police and election commissioners carried the city by 6,000 majority, and in two elections in 1909, held with the same registration lists, under republican police commissioners, the Crittenden-Reed-Cowherd machine was defeated the first time by over 6,000 majority and the second time by over 7,000 majority.

Incidentally, the results of these two elections assure the election of a republican mayor in Kansas City next April, and the retirement of the boom of Tom Crittenden for governor; and will probably result in the withdrawal by Jim Reed of his candidacy for United States Senator. For even the democratic newspapers throughout the state are vigorously protesting against running a man for United States senator who is the hired mouthpiece of a public service corporation, and who has been so emphatically repudiated by the people of his home city.

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